

John
CIA 1.01 Bush, George
Org 1 Chamber of
Commerce
(Pasadena)
CIA 4.01 Terrorism
Org 1 SAN Jacinto
College

New 'era of terrorism' requires strong capability in intelligence, says Bush

BY JOHN KLING
Chronicle Staff

George Bush, outgoing director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Friday warned that the United States must maintain a strong intelligence capability because the world is "entering a kind of era of terrorism."

Bush, 52, said sensationalized, and often false, news reports about CIA abuses have obscured the agency's more important role of combating international terrorism.

Speaking at the 37th Annual Banquet of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, Bush said terrorists have apparently formed a loose network among themselves, cooperating with and assisting each other.

He said there is the strong possibility of some fanatical group gaining control of new weapons and threatening mass destruction with the U.S. the most likely target.

Bush will resign the CIA post Jan. 20. He was appointed director by President Ford last January.

Prior to his address at San Jacinto College, he refused to comment on

whether President-elect Jimmy Carter asked him to stay in his present position. Carter has nominated Theodore Sorensen, former special counsel to John F. Kennedy, to the CIA post.

Bush, who has served as a congressman from Houston, United Nations representative, Republican National Committee chairman and as envoy to the Peoples Republic of China, said he plans to return to Houston, but has made no commitments of any kind.

Prior to his government service, the Massachusetts native cofounded the Zapata Petroleum Co. in Midland.

Bush said he is leaving the agency with higher morale and greater effectiveness than when he took control. He said he is highly concerned about news leaks and disclosure of CIA officers identity because they diminish the agency's overseas effectiveness and place agents in jeopardy.

He said legislative oversight is more thorough now and less antagonistic, but he urged that the current seven committees charged with controlling aspects of the CIA be consolidated into one or perhaps two.